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Message Text

SECRET

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62
ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AEC-11 CIAE-00 H-03 INR-11 IO-14

L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-04 OMB-01 PA-04 PM-07 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 TRSE-00 RSC-01 NSC-07

DRC-01 /153 W
---------- 039249
R 051600Z SEP 74
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3600
INFO SECDEF
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
USCINCEUR
DIA WASHDC

S E C R E T LONDON 11399

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MPOL, PARM, NATO, UK
SUBJECT: UK POSITION ON MBFR

REF: LONDON 10913

1. DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY KILLICK IN CONVERSATION WITH US SEPTEMBER 4 SAID HE TOOK DIM VIEW OF THE PROSPECTS FOR PROGRESS IN THE MBFR TALKS. HE COULD SEE NO SIGN OF MOVEMENT AT VIENNA. WHILE EXPLORATORY TALKS HAD BEEN USEFUL IN CLARIFYING THE VIEWPOINTS OF THE TWO SIDES, THEY HAD ACCOMPLISHED LITTLE ELSE. HE DOUBTED THAT THE RUSSIANS WOULD RETURN TO VIENNA WITH A MORE FORTHCOMING
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POSITION, MAINTAINING THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD NOT MOVE ON

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MBFR UNTIL THERE HAD BEEN A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION TO CSCE.

2. KILLICK, WHO WAS BRITISH AMBASSADOR IN MOSCOW UNTIL LAST FALL, OBSERVED THAT THE POLITBURO WAS PROBABLY HAVING DIFFICULTY WITH THE SOVIET MILITARY IN DEVELOPING SOVIET POSITIONS ON MBFR. HE CHARACTERIZED THE SOVIET MILITARY AS HAVING A "STONE AGE MENTALITY".

3. IN THE COMING ROUNDS OF TALKS, KILLICK (LIKE OTHER BRITISH OFFICIALS WE HAVE TALKED TO) THOUGHT THE WEST SHOULD HOLD FAST TO ITS PRESENT POSITIONS. CONTINUED EXPLORATION OF THE SOVIET POSITION AND EXPOSITION OF THE WESTERN APPROACH SHOULD CONTINUE. HOWEVER, IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY SOVIET MOVEMENT THERE SHOULD BE NO CONCESSIONS FROM THE WEST, E.G., ON PHASING, LINKAGE, ETC. KILLICK CONCLUDED BY MAKING A STRONG PLEA FOR ADEQUATE CONSULTATION WITH THE US IF WE INTENDED TO PUT FORWARD ANY NEW IDEAS AT VIENNA TO GET THE TALKS MOVING. WHILE HE DID NOT DIRECTLY ADDRESS THE ISSUE, HE GAVE US THE IMPRESSION THE BRITISH CONTINUE TO HOPE THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE TRILATERAL TALKS ON NUCLEAR ASPECTS OF MBFR, ALTHOUGH THEY RECOGNIZE THAT THE US MAY NOT BE ABLE TO TALK IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.
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